

THE CIVIL WAR

THE 42ND INFANTRY DIVISION
OF
BEDFORD COUNTY, VIRGINIA

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The sources of information used to write these short accounts of battles of the Civil War were as follows:

1. War of the Rebellion, Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies, 132 Volumes.
2. The National Archives.
3. Harper's Pictorial History of the Civil War, Alfred H. Guersey and Henry M. Alden.
4. The Confederate Soldier in the Civil War, The Fairfax Press, Eulogy by Fitzhugh Lee.
5. Divided We Fought 1861-1865, The MacMillan Co.
6. Battles and Leaders of the Civil War, Ned Bradford.
7. Gettysburg, The Long Encampment, Jack McLaughlin.
8. Civil War Handbook, William H. Price.
9. Civil War Battles, Curt Johnson and Mark McLaughlin.
10. The Golden Book of the Civil War, Bruce Catton.
11. Gardner's Photographic Sketchbook of the Civil War, Alendria Gardner.
12. Civil War Times Illustrated, William Davis, Editor

All my life I have been interested in the Civil War and over the last few years I have made a study of each battle fought as I was interested in finding out which battles my grandfather participated in. He was David Secrest, son of Solomon Secrest of Montvale, Virginia living on the Buford place where now stands a tank farm. David Secrest was also father of Tilden Secrest and eight other children. Most of his children lived out their lives in Bedford County, Tilden, my father, lived 90 years there and died in 1964.

The first thing I did was get a copy of grandfather's service record from the National Archives in Washington, D.C.

From this I learned that he enlisted in the Army of the Confederacy on May 18, 1861 shortly after the war begun. He was enlisted by Captian Buford at Lisbon, Virginia (which is now Bedford, Va.) for a period of 1 year.

Two of his brothers also enlisted, James B. Secrest, who died of measles while in the service and Martin V. Secrest who was listed as missing and never heard from again.

David Secrest was assigned to Company "C" of the 42nd. Infantry Division and served with that Company through the war. His service record shows that he was on Company Muster rolls in 1861, 1862, 1863, 1864 and 1865.

He was wounded only once, in his right hand and was admitted to the General Hospital at Camp Winder, Richmond, Virginia on July 1, 1862. He was furloughed for 25 days on July 5, 1862 to recover from his wound. I have no way of knowing if he made it home while on this furlough.

He fought the rest of the war with his outfit which was under the command of Lt. Gen. Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson and was proud to have known and served under such a capable leader. General Jackson was killed by his own men by mistake in the battle of Chancellorsville May 1863. His division after that was placed by General Lee under the command of General Richard S. Ewell and finished out the war under his command.

David Secrest was on the roll of prisoners of war belonging to the Army of Northern Virginia and was surrendered by General Robert E. Lee, Commanding, to Lt. General U.S. Grant, commanding the armies of the United States and, was paroled at Appomattox Court House, Virginia, April 9, 1865, and went to Clover Hill, Virginia on April 10, 1865 and left on foot for home at Montvale which was approximately 60 miles.

I have made an indepth study of each battle fought in Virginia, Maryland and Pennsylvania, as these would be the ones grandfather would be involved in.

I have visited most of these battlefields to walk over the same ground that was fought on to get a better idea of how the battle was fought and what the objective of each side was. I have taken pictures of where the fighting was the most furious to compare them with the collection I have taken by two great artist-photographers of the Civil War, Mr. Alexander Gardner and Mr. Matthew Brady.

I have no way to prove that grandfather was at all of these places, but his outfit, the 42nd. Virginia Infantry was there; this I have proof. Being an ex-soldier myself, World War II, I know that my outfit was involved in five battles in Italy and I took part in each of those, so for the time being we will assume he was with his company.

I have listed each battle that I can find the 42nd. involved in, place and date of that battle, the commanding officers, the objective of his division, if known and the number of men killed, wounded or missing. These figures will be for the whole C.S.A. Army not the 42nd. Division.

THE 1st BATTLE OF MANASSAS FOUGHT JULY 21, 1861
AT BULL RUN 4 MILES NORTH OF MANASSAS, VA.

The 1st battle of Manassas was not a planned battle, it was a battle fought by two raw, green armies. The 34,000 federal troops under General Irvin McDowell stationed in Arlington Heights, Alexandria and D.C. was made up of 90 day enlistment men whose time of enlistment was almost up and President Lincoln sent this army out of camp on July 16, 1861 to seek out the Confederate Army known to be stationed at Manassas, Virginia and to destroy it in this battle.

General P.G.T. Beauregard had a force of approximately 22,000 troops, also somewhat raw, at Manassas, Virginia and General J. E. Johnston had a force of 12,000 men in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. General Beauregard had drawn up a plan to unite these two forces and march on Washington and President Davis had approved his plan, but President Lincoln started his army after General Beauregard's forces before he could get started on his own plan and he had to prepare for battle on the west side of Bull Run.

He sent word on July 18 to General Johnston to move 10,000 of his men by rail to Manassas Junction and leave 2,000 to hold back General Patterson's Union forces at Harper's Ferry as a battle was sure to be fought any day now, as General McDowell's Army was now at Centreville.

General Beauregard had made ready for battle on the west side of Bull Run by placing a number of regiments of Infantry, some pieces of artillery and a squadron of Calvary at each ford on Bull Run starting at Blackburn's Ford, Mitchell's Ford and at any other place Bull Run was shallow enough for men and artillery pieces to cross up to the Stone Bridge, these were General Longstreet's troops.

General McDowell's scouts were aware of the strength of the Confederate Army at these crossings, so General McDowell changed his plan and marched his Army up the Warrenton Turnpike within one-half mile of the Stone Bridge, then turned due North and marched six more miles through an old logging road to Sudley Ford and crossed Bull Run there and came at the Confederate forces hoping to hit their left flank, this march started at 2:30 a.m. in hopes of being in battle formation at 5:30 a.m. (July 21).

The Confederate Army was growing stronger as General Johnson's troops were arriving. General Beauregard had sent General Evans with his 4 Divisions to take battle formation north of the Stone House on Sulley Road. He sent General Bee with his 6th Regiment of South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama and Mississippi troops to strengthen General Evans troops. About 8:30 Col. S. F. Barton and Col. John D. Imboden arrived with their regiment to add strength, all of these were Johnston's troops.

The battle was now in full swing, raw troops with dry throats, winter uniforms and 90° heat did not show the skill of veteran troops would later one, the battle was a see-saw fight, first the Federal forces would drive the Confederates back off Matthew Hill up Henry Hill then the Confederates would rally and drive the Federals back.

This type of fight went on most of the day, but by mid-afternoon Col. T. J. Jackson arrived with his 4 Divisions of Virginia troops and Col. Wade Hampton with his 3 regiments was to make the difference. The Confederates were being driven back up Henry Hill and General B. Bee saw Jackson standing in front of his troops in battle formation and called to his troops and pointed his sword at Jackson and said "Look at Jackson standing like a stonewall, rally behind the Virginian", which they did and Jackson moved forward to meet the enemy. A name had been born "Stonewall Jackson." General B. Bee was killed minutes later 100 feet south of where Jackson was standing.

The battle took a sudden turn and the Union Army had had enough for one day, they were driven back across Bull Run and headed back to Centreville and on back to D.C. A defeated army, but the Confederate Army was not in much better shape and made little effort to follow up their advantage and try to take D.C.

This was not a bloody battle as we will see later on. The Federal Army lost 2,896 killed or wounded and the Confederate Army lost 1,982.

No place in my studies have I found anything about the 42nd infantry division being at 1st Bull Run battle. They joined Jackson's command later in the year and were with him in his next campaign.

JACKSON'S SHENANDOAH VALLEY CAMPAIGN OF 1862

General Joseph E. Johnston sent Jackson with his small army of 6,500 men into the Valley in November 1861 and was told to do two things for sure, protect the left flank of the Confederate Army at Manassas, guard Virginia's breadbasket against all intrusions, but not expect many reinforcements and try to build his army up with local Valley boys. He spent the rest of the year training his troops.

He marched his men from Winchester to Bath Country and hit a force of General Fremont troops at McDowell, Virginia in the Shenandoah mountains and drove them back to Romney, West Virginia and on to Franklin. He destroyed the Baltimore and Ohio railroad bridge while there to cut supplies from Ohio, Illinois, Indiana and etc. reaching D. C.

General Jackson moved his forces back to the Valley in April as President Lincoln had sent two armies to destroy his troops as they were a constant threat to D.C.

General Banks was at Front Royal with 8,400 men and General Shields at Harper's Ferry with 10,000 more men to try to drive Jackson and his army of 12,000 troops completely out of the Valley.

Jackson sent word to General Johnston and President Davis that if they would send him enough reinforcement to bring his army up to 16,000 men he would whip both Federal forces one at a time and drive them from the Valley.

On May 1 General Ewell arrived with 4 divisions of troops from Culpepper, Virginia to give General Jackson the necessary force to strike hard. One of the divisions sent to General Jackson was the 42nd infantry division from Bedford County.

Jackson had his troops marching at daylight, heading for Winchester to prepare for a strike at Bank's troops at Fort Royal. General Lee had told him to drive them back to the Potomac river. He hoped to take Banks by surprise and hit him just before daylight to catch him unprepared for battle. The trick worked and Banks fell back to Winchester and continued his retreat towards Martinsburg, West Virginia.

Jackson sent his horse cavalry the 2nd and 6th Virginia to pursue Banks and he withdrew across the Potomac into Maryland. General Lee had ordered Jackson to drive Banks toward the Potomac, but he had pushed him clear across, this was on Saturday, May 24, 1862.

This caused great concern in Washington, thinking Jackson might swing towards Washington as General McClellan had the Army of the Potomac between the Chickahominy and the Pamunkey rivers waiting for General McDowell with his 20,000 troops to arrive to start the strike at Richmond. Lincoln sent word to General McClellan to swing General McDowell's troops from Fredericksburg to Front Royal and Strasburg to get between General Jackson and the road to Washington and drive Jackson from the Valley. He arrived in Strasburg on May 28 with 35,000 Union troops and felt sure he could capture Jackson and his entire army.

General Shield's divisions left from Front Royal in hot pursuit of Jackson's troops which were headed for Luray and then on to New Market. General Fremont's Division was sent down the Valley to cut Jackson off as he came over the Massanutten mountain to New Market. General Jackson would have no part of this trap and headed his army to Port Republic and sent his calvary to the three bridges over the South Fork of the Shenandoah river to burn the bridges to hold the two armies apart, as he thought he would be able to defeat them one at a time.

On June 8 General Ewell was sent to hold General Fremont's troops on the west side of the Shenandoah while General Jackson dealt with General Shields' troops at Port Republic. Jackson made a bold strike at Cross Keys, Virginia and crushed General Shield's troops, although he did have to call in help from Ewell's men.

Now the two armies would go for General Fremont's troops, as General Shield's forces were no longer a threat.

General Trimble's brigade of General Ewell's command made contact with General Fremont's forces near Cross Keys and had to give ground back towards Port Republic. They crossed the bridge across the North River and put it to torch. This stopped the entire army of General Fremont from getting to make a strike at General Jackson's troops. With the bridge in flames and the river high General Fremont's troops stood on the hills along the river watching General Tyler's Ohioan retreat and being mauled by the Stonewall Brigade, they were unable to cross to their assistance.

All the fighting in the Valley was not this simple, near Kernstown just out of Winchester, Virginia the Stonewall Brigade under the command of General Richard B. Barnett was in serious trouble when they engaged the entire Union Division of General Kimball after three hours of heavy fighting. They ran out of ammunition and were in danger of being totally overwhelmed. General Garnett issues the order to retreat back to their wagon trains at Newton, four miles south.

This is what the author had to say about this engagement and I quote, "the 5th and 42nd Virginia divisions made a gallant stand against hordes of oncoming Federal troops but were too exhausted and out of ammunition to continue the fight".

General Jackson was furious when he found out the Stonewall Brigade had been withdrawn from the field of battle prematurely. Jackson snorted at Garnett, "the men could have held their position by using the bayonet" -- an instrument that no one but Jackson admired.

The Confederates camped out in the hills near Weyer's Cave until June 17th, they left swiftly to join Lee at Richmond.

The Federal troops were ordered back to Washington to return to Fredericksburg.

So ended the Valley campaign, Jackson had denied the Army of the Potomac the use of 40,000 troops, yet he never had more than 17,000 men. He had defeated three armies, one at a time, had marched his "foot calvary" over 550 miles in just twelve weeks.

THE SEVEN DAY'S BATTLE - JUNE 26 TO JULY 2, 1862

The seven day's battle fought just outside Richmond from June 26 to July 2 were a series of small battles fought by a certain corps of the Union Army commanded by General McClellan and certain commands or corps of the Confederate Army commanded by General Joe Johnston until he was wounded and General Lee was appointed commander of the Army of Northern Virginia.

General McClellan was within 7 miles of Richmond with 80,000 men, but the rumors were that General Lee had called everyone in to help defend the Capital and 200,000 men were there to stop McClellan. This was not true, General Lee pulled out General Longstreet's, General D. H. Hill's and General A.P. Hill's 30,000 men, leaving only 20,000 to defend the City. General Lee ordered these troops to join forces with General Jackson's 30,000 coming from the Valley of Virginia to strike General McClellan's forces in the rear. The Chickahominy River was out of its banks and all bridges washed out keeping General Jackson from uniting with Longstreet and company to make a strike at Mechanicsville, Virginia. General A. P. Hill sent General Reynold's and General Seymour's brigades to do this on June 26 and General McClellan thought there were many thousands of men in front of him and now many thousands in his rear. He sent word to President Lincoln to send reinforcements or he would be wiped out completely, but would die with his men. The whole truth of

the matter he could have marched into Richmond anytime he wished and used the Confederate trenches and forts to keep General Lee out, but he was sure 200,000 troops lay waiting for him.

Instead of going into Richmond he started his retreat east of Richmond and next day on June 27 his army was overtaken at Cold Harbor. A savage battle took place most of the day. General Jackson and General Longstreet came to A. P. Hill's aid. They mauled General Reynold's and General McCall's troops, capturing over 2,000 prisoners with General Reynold's and General McCall's included, also they drove McClellan's forces from the field and took 20 of his best pieces of artillery.

General McClellan was now in full retreat, he recrossed the Chickahominy river and burned the bridges, hoping to slow down the Confederate army. They rebuilt the bridge and caught a small part of General Summer's corps at Savage's Station on Sunday June 29. These were General Magruder's forces under General McLaw's division. This was a very small battle; the Union forces were on the march and only wished to hold the Confederate forces back out of the way.

On Monday, June 30, General Lee had hoped to hit General McClellan with 80,000 men in the center of his 8 mile long line of retreat, divide his army and cut each half to pieces,

near Frasier's farm. The streams were all swollen and out of their banks and Lee's army had trouble reaching the place of attack in time. Longstreet and Hill were there with 18,000 troops; they did what they could, but couldn't do too much damage, not what General Lee had planned. They hit McClellan's wagon train and artillery and captured 20 more guns by making a bayonet attack just before dark.

The Union army had taken up a strong positions at Malvern Hill on July 1, General McClellan hoping to make his last stand before retreating to the James River. General Lee had hoped to hit the Union army in full strength at dawn on this day, but only General D. H. Hill with his two brigades arrived on time. General Hill sent General Magruder and General Hunger to storm this hill and was cut down almost to a man. General Jackson, General Longstreet and General A.P. Hill arrived just before dusk and made plans to hit the Union forces next day. At dawn they found no Union forces on Malvern Hill, they had moved out during the night and were headed to the James River; they reached there on July 7.

General Lee rested his men a few days and returned back to Richmond on July 8 in full control of Richmond, so ending the Peninsula campaign as McClellan went on to Harrison's Landing to head back to D.C.

This series of battles showed some of the best fighting of the war, but was the worst generalship of any battle. General McClellan was way off as his information was not correct and General Lee was not up to par either, he had his army moving faster on paper than his men could go on the ground.

The Confederate Army lost 19,406 men killed, wounded or missing, while the Union Army lost 15,249. This was very much a Confederate victory as General McClellan and his army was no longer a threat to Richmond.

The 42nd infantry division helped fight these battles under the able leadership of General Richard Ewell under General Jackson's 2nd Corp.

Grandfather was wounded in his right hand in the fighting late in the day at Malvern Hill and was sent to Camp Winder General hospital at Richmond.

THE SECOND BATTLE OF MANASSAS FOUGHT AT BULL RUN

August 29th and 30th, 1862

The second battle of Manassas was not a planned battle, but movement of troops into the area by General Lee set the stage.

He did not like the idea of so many federal troops so close to Richmond as the Union army were. He sent General Jackson with his 2nd Corp and General Longstreet with his 1st. Corp to Manassas by different routes, knowing this would draw the new Union commander, General John Pope back from the area to keep between these Confederate forces and Washington, D.C. The idea worked and Manassas was to become again the battlegrounds of two great armies in just over a year.

Second Manassas was fought by General R. E. Lee opposing Major General John Pope and was somewhat different from 1st Manassas. Pope's troops were moving to Centreville and General Jackson's 2nd. Corp at Manassas Junction. Jackson had his troops make a flank movement to get on the north side of Warrenton Turnpike and to be in a position to join forces with General Longstreet's 1st Corp coming down from Warrenton and Gainesville, Virginia.

General Pope moved his forces from Centreville to Manassas hoping to find Jackson there, but found the town deserted as General Jackson had already pulled out.

Jackson knew what was underfoot so he marched his men on Sudley Road to the Stone House at Warrenton Junction then moved a couple of hundred yards farther and took up positions in an unfinished railroad cut south of Sudley Mountain.

General Pope then marched his troops back to Centreville and on down the Warrenton Turnpike to the Stone Bridge; they crossed Bull Run on August 29 at Lewis's Ford, Ball's Ford and the Stone Bridge and made contact with Jackson's 2nd Corp. A hard fought battle lasted all day as General Jackson's men were well protected, although General Longstreet's 1st Corp had not arrived.

General Longstreet's forces arrived at dark and took positions to strengthen Jackson's right flank and other weak points. Union forces attacked next morning August 30 not knowing Jackson had been reeinfenced and found a stronger force to face. The

battle was fought hard most of the day, but the fresh troops did make a difference and General Pope had to do what General McDowell did 13 months before, retreat back across Bull Run to Centreville and on back to D.C. a defeated army.

This battle was a little different from 1st Manassas, these were veterans fighting, not green troops, so the casualty list was higher. Federal forces lost 14,462 killed, wounded or missing and the Confederates lost 9,474.

The 42nd. Infantry division was there in General Jackson's 2nd Corp under the command of Colonel Bradley T. Johnson. Their objective was to turn the Federal right flank and threaten communications with Washington.

THE BATTLE OF ANTIETAM - SEPTEMBER 16-17, 1862

The battle of Antietam was fought at Sharpsburg, Maryland on September 16 and 17 of 1862. On September 6, 1862 a ragged host of 55,000 men crossed the Potomac River at White's Ford near Leesburg, Virginia. This was General Lee's Army of Northern Virginia. This was the first Confederate invasion of the North. It was untouched by battle, rich in crops; Maryland being a border state could probably be brought into the Confederacy, General Lee also wanted to get the Federal troops out of Virginia as harvest time was at hand and he could also march into Pennsylvania and cut off rail communication to the North, as well as being a threat to Washington, Baltimore and Philadelphia. Sept. 7 found him at Frederick, Maryland.

Another army under Major General George B. McClellan was forming just north of Washington. This Army was assembling at Rockville, Maryland and was 90,000 strong. General McClellan's orders from President Lincoln were to find and destroy the Confederate army.

General Lee's plans were to split his army, send the 1st Corps under General Longstreet to Hagerstown to hold back the Union forces if possible, General J.E.B. Stewart's cavalry to hold McClellan's forces east of South Mountain and General Jackson's men to capture the Union garrisons at Martinsburg, West Virginia 2,500 strong and move on down on Harper's Ferry and take that garrison of 12,000 Union troops with the help of General McLaw's troops on the Maryland Heights and General Walker on the Loudon Heights all to strike Colonel D.S. Miles' troops at once on September 15.

This was General Lee's Special Order 191. A copy of which was lost at the camp site used by Lee's men at Frederick, Maryland and found by the Union troops two days later when they arrived. With this in hand General McClellan had a very good advantage.

General Jackson was to accomplish this as quickly as possible and join forces with General Longstreet and General Stewart at Sharpsburg, Maryland. As General Lee had decided not to withdraw across the Potomac, but to stay and fight at Sharpsburg as it offered one of the best places to fight, it had ready made fortifications -- outcropping of rocks running parallel to the Hagerstown Pike which his forces would use to their advantage. Also Antietam Creek ran north to south with

the Federal forces on the east side and his on the west he could defend his positions easier as they had to cross the three bridges or fords to get to his army. The battle stage was all set on September 15 and troops lay nervous all night waiting for the coming of dawn. The 16th was a very foggy morning and as it lifted artillery opened up with powerful batteries on both sides. About mid-afternoon General Hooker's 1st corps charged down Hagerstown Pike across Farmer Miller's 40 acre cornfield into General Jackson's forces just back of Dunkard Church. This was a seesaw battle across the cornfield and as dark came each drew back to their former position.

With the coming of dawn on September 17th the battle was renewed on all fronts, the cornfield, scene of the action on the 16th, the battle at the Sunken Road or Bloody Lane, this was General Longstreet's troops opposing the forces of Generals French and Richardson and the battle at the Lower Bridge, General Burnside making a crossing and being opposed by General A.P. Hill's forces.

This was the bloodiest day of the Civil War, 23,000 men lost their lives here, one 20 minute period 2,500 men was slaughtered in the cornfield. There were 12,410 Federal troops killed, wounded or captured and another 13,613 captured at Harper's Ferry. The Confederacy lost 10,700 and another 2,685 at Harper's Ferry.

Antietam was a draw, but both sides claimed victory, the Union forces had halted Lee's invasion and General Lee had gotten the Union forces out of Virginia --a constant threat to Richmond and fought a battle on Federal soil.

The 42nd was at Antietam in General Jackson's division; they were in General J. R. Jones' brigade and commanded by Captain R. W. Withers. They were a part of General Jones' men, fighting from the cover of projecting rocks that helped turn back General Samuel Crawford's division who bore down the Hagerstown Pike toward the Confederates in the west woods.

The battle did not resume the 18th and as night fell General Lee crossed the Potomac at White's Ford back into Virginia with his weary army.

THE BATTLE OF FREDERICKSBURG, VIRGINIA WAS FOUGHT

December 11, 12 and 13, 1862

Two great armies were facing each other across the Rappahannock River at Fredericksburg. President Lincoln had relieved General McClellan of his command and had placed Major General Ambrose E. Burnside in command.

These two armies just didn't happen to be at Fredericksburg, General Burnside had planned to cross the Rappahannock River on pontoon bridges and defeat General Lee's army which had kept between Burnside and Richmond. General Lee had been there since he marched his army back into Virginia from Antietam, Maryland knowing that a crossing would be made.

General Lee had taken a strong defensive position on the south side of Fredericksburg several hundred yards from town with only a company of sharpshooters to fire on the Union troops trying to build the pontoon bridges; these were General Barksdale's Mississippi troops under General Longstreet. General Lee had Jackson's 39000 troops in battle line from below Fredericksburg to Hamilton's crossing, with part of General J.E.B. Stuart's forces guarding his right flank. General Longstreet's 40,000 men were from Jackson's left to Bark's Ford, Stuart's other forces guarding the left flank. Lee's artillery was on Marye's Heights zeroing in on the flat 200 yards between Fredericksburg and the stonewall behind which were 6,000 sharpshooters ready to work in four relays when the Federal army made their crossing and came towards Marye's Heights.

Over on Stafford Heights General Burnside was making his troops ready as soon as the pontoon bridges arrived to try his luck at crushing the Confederate army and marching into Richmond. He had divided his army into 3 Grand Divisions. General Franklin would cross the 3 pontoon bridges below Fredericksburg and make contact with Jackson's forces. General Summers commanding the right Grand Division would cross the two pontoon bridges just above Fredericksburg and storm General Longstreet's troops. General Hooker commanding the center Grand Division would be held in readiness to come to the aid of either division if it got into trouble.

General Burnside's artillery under General Henry J. Hunt on Stafford Heights would be of little use to him because of the danger of shelling his own men. He would use it only to shell Fredericksburg itself and this set the City on fire.

This was done December 11 to run the 1,600 Confederate sharpshooters out of town so the troops could build and cross the bridges.

Everything was ready and General Burnside ordered the troops to move out at daylight on December 13, but the fog was so thick it was 10:00 o'clock before the crossings could take place. General Lee had given orders not to try to stop the crossing, but to wait until they started across the 200 yards between the City and the Confederate strong position.

General Jackson's men were hit first, but held their position, although they did suffer some loss. This was General Franklin's troops in front of Jackson.

General Summers made the crossings at the upper bridges, came on through what was left of Fredericksburg and prepared to assault General Longstreet's men in six different waves. What they didn't know was that 200 yards back there was a stonewall 4 feet high with dirt on the outside and you couldn't tell it was there. There was 6,000 sharpshooters of General Cobb's Georgia and North Carolina brigades waiting, also 20 pieces of artillery were also zeroing in with grape-shot on this flat area. The first wave of infantry of French's Division was cut down to a man, next came a division of Hancock's, they suffered the same fate -- thus there laid 3,200 casualties.

General D.N. Couch, second in command to General Burnside, was watching the slaughter from the cupola of the Court House. He went to Burnside's headquarters and told him the story and asked if there might not be a better way. Burnside said his plan of battle would work, and to send the other four waves of infantry forward, and sooner or later, the enemy would yield and the Heights would be taken and the battle won.

The other four waves met the same fate -- "these were brave men" -- and no one got any closer than 40 yards to the stonewall. Dead and wounded men were piled deep over this ground; some managed to crawl back to safety. The Federal casualties in front of the stonewall was over 6,300. The 6,000 Confederates and 20 guns had withstood the driving attack of six Federal divisions whose battle strength exceeded 40,000 men.

General Jackson had held his ground also, by hand to hand combat at times. General Lee's army had not left Marye's Heights as dusk settled over the area. They were expecting the battle to continue the next day, but the cost had been too high, 18,000 men lay dead; approximately 15,000 Union troops and 3,000 Confederate.

Two days later General Burnside ordered his troops back across the bridges under cover of night and a heavy rain. He was marked for removal as commander of the Army of the Potomac by President Lincoln for his weak showing at Fredericksburg.

The 42nd Infantry Division was at Fredericksburg battlefield under General Jackson's Division in the second brigade commanded by General J.R. Jones.

THE BATTLE OF CHANCELLORSVILLE FOUGHT IN THE SPRING OF

1863 on May 1st, 2nd and 3rd

The battle of Chancellorsville was a planned battle on the part of the Union forces. Major General Joseph Hooker was Lincoln's choice as Commander-in-Chief to crush the Confederate army and take Richmond. The Union army still encamped on Stafford Heights and General Lee's troops were still at Marye's Heights between Hooker and Richmond.

First off Hooker was told to restore morale and discipline in the Union ranks, then present a battle plan to crush Lee's army. He had 130,000 men, the largest, best equipped and supplied army in the world.

General Lee only had only 58,934 men left after the hard winter; he lost a lot to sickness due to short rations and about 10,000 men went home during the winter months and had not returned. Also he had sent General Pete Longstreet with General Pickett's and General Hood's divisions south of the James river to gather desperately needed supplies and forage for his army. He knew something big was under foot as he could see across to Stafford Heights and see all the movement of troops. But General Lee never let things like that worry him and said until he knew what "those people's" plans were he would not shift any troops.

General Hooker's plan was to leave one division on Stafford Heights in plain sight of General Lee and one division at Hamilton's Crossing below Fredericksburg to hold Lee's attention, then take the rest of his army up the north side of the Rappahannock 20 miles to Kelley's Ford and cross there, then come down to the Rapidan River and cross it at Ely's Ford and march on to Chancellorsville and be behind General Lee before he knew they were there. It was a good plan and had worked up to this point, Hooker had stole a march on the best General in either army, he could now destroy Lee's army, so he thought.

General Lee had not been asleep, General "J.E.B." Stuart had kept him informed about the crossings of the river and he had pulled every troop he dared out of Fredericksburg and had formed a battle line just east of Chancellorsville to try and stop Hooker's forces. He knew he could not hold them back long with Longstreet's men gone. So he told General Stuart to ride around back of Hooker's forces and find him a place in his battle line that was weak and he would hit where he could do the most damage. This Stuart did and found Hooker's left flank weak and not well patrolled. This is what General Lee

needed to know. That night he set General Jackson's entire force in motion in front of Hooker's men and marched them around back of Hooker's troops, to get at his weak spot.

General Hooker had not made his move yet and had lost too much time and his advantage had passed. He now thought that General Lee was pulling his forces out and would retreat back to Richmond and no battle would be fought.

At 5:30 p.m. on May 2 Jackson's men were in position as the bugle call sounded, the rebel yell and the cannons opened up on the Eleventh Corp of Hancock's division, under General O.O. Howard. They were eating dinner and had their rifles stacked. They took off with the pack mules, officer's horses, caissons with men and horses running for their lives. They ran into Berry's division of the 3rd Corps, Haynes' brigade of the 2nd Corps and part of the 12th, no one could make an effectual stand until finally dark came and each outfit tried to reorganize and form a battle line for next day.

The night of May 2nd 1863 was to be a sad night for the Confederate forces and General Lee. General Jackson was doing some scouting ahead of the lines and ran into a brigade of North Carolinian troops on guard and was mistaken for Yankee scouts. The party was fired upon and General Jackson was hit by 3 balls, most of his party was killed or wounded. General Jackson died 8 days later on May 10, 1863. The command was passed to General A.P. Hill and he was carried from the field early next morning wounded also. General Lee placed General "J.E.B." Stuart in command of Jackson's forces and the 3rd of May was a seesaw battle, but General Stuart was a smart cookie also. He saw an advantage to be had by placing 30 pieces of artillery on top of Hazel Grove and shelling the Federal troops. This made the difference in a winning battle and a losing battle and the army of General Hooker was now a defeated army. This is not exactly correct, the General was defeated, not the army.

On May 4th and 5th General Hooker ordered his army to withdraw back across the river rather than to risk total war with General Lee, explaining this to his Corp commanders that their duty was first to protect Washington. The Federal forces lost 17,287, the Confederates lost 12,821 at Chancellorsville.

The 42nd Infantry was at Chancellorsville under Lt. Gen. Jackson's second corps. They were in General Trimble's division, Brigadier General J.R. Jones's brigade, commanded by Lt. Col. R. W. Withers. The 42nd Division had 15 killed and 120 wounded in this battle.

While Richmond rejoiced at the victory, the deep despair in Washington was summed up by Lincoln's anguished cry "My God! What will the country say?"

THE BATTLE OF GETTYSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA FOUGHT

JULY 1st, 2nd and 3rd, 1863

The battle of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania was not a planned battle. General Lee took his army into the north to break up all the preconceived plans that the Union forces had, to relieve the South -- Virginia in particular -- of the enemy's presence and to subsist while there on his resources. They would also be in a good position to bring pressure on Harrisburg, Philadelphia and Baltimore and isolate and strangle Washington, D.C. and get an early settlement to the war.

The Federal forces under General George C. Meade, the new commander of the Army of the Potomac, were ordered into Pennsylvania also. They arrived in Gettysburg on June 30. General Lee's army was scattered out somewhat in Pennsylvania. General "J.E.B." Stuart was east of Gettysburg, near Harrisburg; General Ewell with his Second Corp was at Carlisle; General Early's troops were at York and General Longstreet's 1st Corp was with General Lee at or near Chambersburg, Pennsylvania.

On July 1, General Harry Heath's Division of A.P. Hill's Corp set out from Chambersburg for Gettysburg to find supplies for the troops. what they needed most was shoes. On the Chambersburg Pike, a mile and a half from town they ran into Yankee troops. They were John Buford's cavalry, potrolling the roads for Confederate troops know to have been seen in the area. The cavalry dismounted to trade shots with Heath's infantry and soon reinforcements from both sides arrived and the battle of Gettysburg had begun and would prove to be the bloodiest three days of the Civil War.

The battle centered mostly on the northwest side of Gettysburg with General Meade's right flank. Neither side had all their troops there on July 1st, but they were arriving hourly and thrown into battle as fast as possible. The Confederate forces gave a good account of themselves and at dusk had driven General Meade's men back into town to Cemetery Hill.

The heaviest fighting on the second day was on the north and east side of Gettysburg. General Ewell arrived early in the day from Carlisle and not knowing a battle had started, he ran into the Federal's XI corps under General Howard. With help from General Early and General Jones they managed to push the XI Corps back across Hanover Road; they took Benner's Hill and pushed them to the base of Culp's Hill. That was as far as they could go and the 1st, 2nd and V Corps came to the XI's aid. Heavy fighting took place the rest of the day but at dusk everyone was holding their grounds.

During the night of July 2nd General Lee held a meeting with his Corps commanders and decided the center of General Meade's line must be the weak spot, so tomorrow they would hit there. General Longstreet voted against this plan as he figured Meade was strong there also. The plan was drawn and General Pickett was to lead the charge with 12,000 infantry troops after the artillery softened the area with about 3 hours of shelling. The Union artillery traded shot-for-shot with Lee's artillery. The firing died down and the bugle call sounded and 13,000 gray clad troops stood up and started towards General Meade's lines one-and one-half miles away.

The Union artillery cut holes after holes in this line, but it never once stopped, and closed holes in rank and kept moving. "These were brave men". The line of gray moved on and on, finally they came within rifle range of General Meade's men which were behind stonewalls. Very few units made it back to General Lee's line. This brought the battle of Gettysburg to a close with over 50,000 men killed, wounded, and missing, in the three days of fighting. The books list 23,186 Union troops and 27,063 Confederate troops. The battle had crippled both armies and the battle did not resume on July 4th and General Lee gathered his wounded together as best he could and started the long trip back to Virginia.

The 42nd Infantry Division now under the command of Lt. General Richard S. Ewell; he had been appointed commander of the Second Corps. After General Jackson was killed at Chancellorsville they did their heaviest fighting on July 2nd, but were also involved on the 3rd holding as many Union troops away from the fighting in the center of the line. They were in Brigadier General John M. Jones' brigade and commanded by Lt. Colonel R. W. Withers.

GENERAL MEADE'S CAMPAIGN IN VIRGINIA

JULY 1863 TO DEC. 1863 - KNOWN AS MEADE'S CAMPAIGN IN VIRGINIA

On the 14th of July General Lee and the Confederate army which had been defeated at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania crossed the Potomac River just below Harper's Ferry and camped near Winchester, Virginia, but learning General Meade had crossed the Potomac farther down on the 17th and 18th and was on the east side of the Blue Ridge Mountain broke his camp and made a rapid retreat up the Valley of the Shenandoah. He hoped to be ahead of the Union forces and slip through one of the mountain passes and reach the Valley of the Rappahannock and make it to Culpepper, Virginia to be between Meade's Federal troops and Richmond. He reached Culpepper the same day Meade reached Manassas Gap. Each army commander expected the other to make disposition for a fight the next day. Neither knew for sure the other's strength and Washington forbid Meade to make battle as Lee's strength had grown since he reached Virginia soil; he had 56,000 present for duty, Meade had 75,000, but the figures were unknown to the commanders.

General Meade pulled back towards Centreville, Virginia and Lee moved up to Bristoe, Virginia with their calvary engaged in battle, but the two armies avoided a battle unless they could fight on their own terms. Lee hoped if he had to fight that he could get to Bull Run Mountain and fight the same battle as the 2nd battle of Bull Run. Meade took up a strong position at Centreville, and waited to see if Lee would attack. Lee learned that Meade had withdrawn back ot Fairfax Station halfway between Centreville and Washington and decided to not make battle.

General Lee on the 18th of August commanded his retreat toward the Rappahannock knowing Meade would follow. General Stuart's cavalry was to bring up the rear and he had one fight at Catlett's Station with Meade's cavalry. Neither of the two armies engaged in all out battle.

General Lee got his Confederate Army behind the Rappahannock and took up intrenchments that he had formerly used the year before and waited for the Union forces to follow.

On the 7th of November Meade put his army in motion. He sent several divisions across Kelly's Ford under General Sedgwick to strike at Lee's forces, both sides suffered high loses, but an all out battle never developed. Lee withdrew across the Rapidan river into a better position to do battle, but Meade did not follow as it became too hazardous until the railroad line could be repaired so his line of supplies could catch up.

General Meade's troops lay idle for the next three weeks then on the 29th of November he sent two corps; General Sedgwick's and General Warren's, across the Rapidan on pontoon bridges as the water was too high to ford. They fell upon General Ewell's troops and a furious fight took place, but General Hill came to the rescue of General Ewell and they stopped the Federal advance.

Winter was coming on and any sudden storm would prevent General Meade's troops from getting supplies so he withdrew his army to its former positions.

So ended the campaign of 1863 in Virginia as both armies retired to winter quarters to await the opening of spring.

The 42nd was with General Lee on these movements back and forth across northern Virginia under the command of General Ewell and was hit hard at Mine Run on the 29th of November.

THE BATTLE OF THE WILDERNESS FOUGHT

MAY 5th, 6th and 7th, 1864

This battle could have been included in the battles from March 1864 to April 2nd 1865 which were fought around Richmond leading up to the seige of Petersburg and then to its fall.

We now had a different General commanding the Union forces, one which did not plan to back up, but to keep the pressure on General Lee and his army until the war was over. The new commander was Lt. General U.S. Grant fresh from victories all down the Mississippi River.

General Lee knew about General Grant and started to make plans to win some of the battles that would follow. General Grant would lose many men in the next few months, but he was being sent reinforcements daily and General Lee could not replace men easily that he lost, therefore General Grant figured he could trade man-for-man and still win. During the months of May and June 1864 General Grant lost over 87,000 men, more than General Lee had in his army. The man-for-man trade sure didn't work, but General Lee's ability to wage war was falling shorter each day.

Before daybreak on May 4 General Grant had his army in motion, marching to the fords to cross the Rapidan River. General Lee's scouts signaled from hilltop to hilltop for the corps to concentrate as the Union troops were on the move. General Warren's corps, the advance column, pressed on and camped for the night in the very heart of the Wilderness. General Sedgwick halted near the river and General Hancock moved on to Chancellorsville to camp. General Grant assumed General Lee would fallback to Richmond with such a superior force in front of him.

General Lee only had 60,000 men, about half of what General Grant had in motion. This did not worry General Lee as he had been outnumbered before and gave a good account of himself. His forces were gathering on the edge of the Wilderness hourly and were sent to their positions as they arrived. General Lee knew the Wilderness like the back of his hand and told every commander by which road to strike the Union troops just as soon as they started to move. It was 10:00 a.m. before General Grant knew the Confederate army was on all sides as his troops started to move out. General Ewell's 2nd corps hit General Warren's right, driving them further into the Wilderness. General Hill was holding General Hancock's forces in check. Generals Longstreet and Anderson were giving General Burnside and General Sedgwick plenty of trouble.

This is the fight the Confederate army loved, being in such thick woods that the Union army never knew from what side an attack would come and their artillery was of no use. The battle raged until night fall and each unit slept on their arms knowing what the next day would bring.

General Lee's plans for the 5th were to be in a position to drive all union forces back into the Wilderness. He shifted his army during the night to be able to hit the Union army and force each corp back in confusion in an almost impenetrable forest, where it could not act as an army. The forces of General Lee could hit where the Union army was the weakest and do the most damage.

The Confederate army was set in motion at first light and hit the Union army from a complete different side than the day before. This added confusion in the Union ranks and the troops were swept back into a general retreat, but units got lost in the woods and were either killed or captured. General Alexander Hays and General James Wadsworth were both killed trying to lead their men forward to break up this retreat. This fighting continued the rest of the day, but did not resume the next day. The losses had been heavy; killed wounded or taken prisoners, for the Federal army numbered 37,737 and the Confederate army 11,400.

The 42nd Infantry Division was there in the Wilderness, under General Richard Ewell's 2nd corp and gave a good account of themselves.

THE SIEGE OF PETERSBURG
MARCH 1864 TO APRIL 2, 1865

In March 1864 President Lincoln appointed Lt. General U.S. Grant Commander-in-Chief of all of the armies of the United States. He was fresh from recent victories at Vicksburg and Chattanooga and the President felt that he was the "fighting General" he had been looking for the past four years and that he could find a way to stop the Confederate army and General Robert E. Lee.

General Grant lost no time, in May he sent his army across the Rappahannock and Rapidan Rivers on his march toward Richmond. General Lee knew about this and had moved his army near the Wilderness in direct line of the Union army. The Union army camped in and around the Wilderness and General Lee made his move before daylight next day. (See Battle of Wilderness for details). It was a vicious and costly two day battle; killed, wounded and missing were 37,757 for Union and 11,400 for Confederates.

General Grant did not withdraw his troops like the other generals had done, he executed a left flank movement and tried to get between General Lee's army and Richmond, but found General Lee had also moved his army and was waiting for the Union forces five days later at Spotsylvania Court House, Virginia.

The two armies clashed again in a vicious battle, General Lee being pretty well dug in and caused the Union to suffer staggering losses, killed, wounded and missing, Union 26,461, Confederates 9,000.

The Union army was well aware of the price they were paying, but they were destroying General Lee's ability to wage offensive war. They were able to get replacement daily and were to lose more men in May and June of 1864 than General Lee had in his whole army.

General Grant executed another left flank movement and made it to the outskirts of Richmond, but was stopped at Cold Harbor. General Lee had gotten to Cold Harbor, the battlefield of last year's fighting, and had gotten in his defensive position to try to stop the Union army. The Union army suffered heavy losses, killed, wounded and missing; for Union army 14,931, Confederate 1,700.

This was in early June of 1864 and these battles had finally convinced Federal officers that well-selected, well-manned entrenchments, adequately supported by artillery were practically impregnable to frontal assaults. These battles changed the course of

the war from a war of maneuvers to a war of siege.

General Grant decided not to make battle as General Lee was much too strong in his defenses around Richmond, but to string out his army from Richmond to Petersburg, a distance of twenty-three miles and cut all lines of communications north of the James River and to capture all five of the railroads leading into Petersburg to stop all supplies and at the same time strike the Confederate forces at every opportunity as General Lee would have to stretch his forces those twenty-three miles also to hold him in tow.

On June 7 General Phil Sheridan's army from the Shenandoah Valley joined Grant's army and was sent west to raid Charlottesville and disrupt Confederate communications. Lee was forced to send Wade Hampton's cavalry after Sheridan, leaving him no one for reconnaissance, as General J.E.B. Stuart had been killed May 11 at Yellow Tavern, a Richmond suburb, stopping Sheridan's Union cavalry from entering Richmond proper.

From this time on the war was to go against the Confederate army. On June 13th General Grant ordered a push on all fronts, battles were fought at Savage's Station, Malvern Hill, Harrison's Landing, Bermuda Hundred, Five Forks and etc. Each battle fought had taken a toll of his men and supplies. He now faced winter with his men half starving and freezing in the filthy trenches. Death, disease and desertion were slowing destroying the once proud army of Northern Virginia.

Grant did not let up even in the dead of winter; he wanted to keep Lee off balance. Infantry and cavalry assaults were made daily and all five railroad lines were now in Union hands. The strong forts of forts Gregg and Waitworth were over run and in Union hands.

On April 2, 1865 General Lee telegraphed Jefferson Davis. "I advise that all preparations be made for leaving Richmond tonight". Now General Lee had only one escape route left and he ordered his entire force to march and assemble at Amelia Court House. The ten months of siege of Richmond and Petersburg were over, During this period Federals suffered approximately 42,000 casualties, the Confederates about 28,000 not counting desertions.

THE CAMPAIGN TO APPOMATTOX

APRIL 2 TO APRIL 9, 1865

General Lee had ordered his army to move as quickly as possible back to Amelia Court House as he had ordered two days rations and forage to be sent there as his men and horses had not eaten in almost two days.

The famished regiments began to march into Amelia Court House on April 4 and General Lee rode in with Longstreet's advance about 8:30 a.m. and not a single ration was there. Hour after hour famished regiments marched in as planned. General Wilcox and his men arrived at noon, followed sometime later by General Heath, General Mahone and General Goode's regiments. By late afternoon General Ewell arrived, then the cavalry under General Anderson and Fitzhugh Lee arrived. It was their job to hold General Sheridan off of the troops and burn the bridges after the last unit was across all waterways.

On April 5 General Mahone sent out commissary wagons to comb the countryside for food and forage; the wagons returned empty as the country had nothing to give after helping to feed the army for the past four years.

General Mahone went straight to General Lee with the bad news, General Lee was "in tears as he could no longer feed his men".

General Lee ordered all troops to form ranks and they would move south to Danville and hope to join General Joe E. Johnston's army of Tennessee at the North Carolina border, and be in better shape to give fight. He made a full apology to the troops because of no rations and had wired Danville to have 200,000 rations waiting for his men.

The men all agreed they could wait another day for food and rallied behind General Lee and headed south.

Eight miles south of Amelia Court House at Jetersville, Virginia they found General Sheridan's dismounted cavalry behind earthworks placed squarely across their line of march. This ended all hopes of rations or escape; his only alternative was to go west to Farmville, on to Appomattox, as his men were in no shape to fight an all-out battle.

The Federal cavalry of General Sheridan's cut gaps in the retreating line of men at every opportunity; 6,000 Confederate troops and nine Generals were taken in these disasters at Saylor's

Creek and Little Sayers. General Lee and General Longstreet rode back along the lines to see for themselves what was happening. They found that hundreds of their wagons had been captured and set ablaze and that General Ewell's regiment had been hit in front by Sheridan's cavalry and in back by General Wheaton's infantry and had taken General Ewell and most of his regiment prisoners along with General Kershaw and his entire regiment.

What to do now with only half of an army left -- no rations, no artillery pieces and no wagon trains left was the greatest problem General Lee had ever faced. He asked that they push on to Farmville. They arrived on April 7 and found some rations there at the station, but before they could eat they found that Federal troops were bearing down, the high bridge over which they had to cross the Appomattox River had accidentally been left in tact by General Mahone after the last troops had crossed on the evening before. The ration train was sent off towards Lynchburg without everyone getting fed as it would fall into Federal hands also.

On the 7th at dark a letter from General Grant reached General Lee asking him to surrender the remains of his army to avoid further bloodshed. General Longstreet said "not yet" and Lee agreed, so that night Lee's army was pushed on towards Appomattox Station twenty-two miles west of Farmville.

They marched all that night and the next day at dark they were two miles from Appomattox Court House. At the station was a trainload of rations if Lee could beat Sheridan's cavalry to them.

Another letter came from General Grant. His terms of surrender would be simple. "Peace being my great desire" his only condition was that the men surrender, take their parole and return to their homes, not to bear arms again. This was handed to General Lee at 9:00 p.m. on the 8th of April.

General Lee did not reply at once, then he found out that General Sheridan had beat him to the Station at Appomattox and stood squarely between the Confederate army and the much needed rations at the Station. Lee made a move during the night of April 8 to find out if infantry was there also to hold the rations. He sent General Gordon along with Fitzhugh Lee's cavalry to hit Sheridan and try to recapture the train. They were beaten back as Sheridan was indeed there in force. They returned back to General Lee and told him how hopeless their cause was.

At 8:30 a.m. on April 9 General Lee called his generals to him and asked them what he should do; they all agreed that the choice of surrender was all that was left.

General Lee mounted his horse Traveller, accompanied by Colonel Marshall and Sergeant G. W. Tucker and under a white flag rode to the McLean House, met with General Grant and arranged the terms of surrender. Each signed the agreement and General Lee rode back to his men and told them the war was over and that they would be fed, given a parole and allowed to return to their homes. Any one who owned a horse could take it home to do their farm work with.

General Lee stood in his tent and received the throngs of those who came to make their farewells. On April 10 he made a short farewell speech to his famed Army of Northern Virginia. They stacked their arms and left for their homes.

What was left of the 42nd Infantry Division, as most of them were taken prisoner along with General Ewell on April 6 at Saylor's Creek, were with General Lee at Appomattox Court House. They stacked arms and received their parole, were sent to Clover Hill, Virginia on the 10th and left for home.